

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06793 011252Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3129

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CSCE, SP

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PAGE 02 MADRID 06793 011252Z

SUBJ: PREMIER ARIAS APPEALS FOR NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST

FOREIGN ATTACKS

REF: MADRID 6755

SUMMARY: IN NATIONWIDE TV SPEECH SEPT 30 ARIAS APPEALED TO SPANIARDS TO DEMONSTRATE NATIONAL UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN FACE OF FOREIGN ATTACKS AND TO CONTINUE RECENT PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS DESPITE RISK OF ISOLATION. PREMIER CRITICIZED "HYPOCRISY" OF SOME SIGNATORIES OF CSCE AGREEMENT IN HELSINKI FOR FAILURE TO RESPECT COMMITMENT NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND NOT TO AID AND ABET TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. HE RECOMMITTED GOVT TO PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ORDER, NOTING THAT TERRORISM HANDICAPPED FORWARD MOVEMENT IN HIS PROGRAM AIMED AT BROADER PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH ARIAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS TENURE AS PREMIER HAD BEEN BURDENED WITH GRAVE PROBLEMS AND HAD NOT BEEN "EASY OR COMFORTABLE", HE SPOKE WITH CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION. SPEECH LEFT IMPRESSION THAT ARIAS AND GOVT HAD DECIDED TO ACCENT NATIONALISTIC RESPONSE TO WAVE OF PROTESTS AGAINST SPAIN'S HANDLING OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS INTERNAL MATTER. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING REGULAR EVENING NEWSCAST WHICH REVIEWED POST-WAR HISTORY OF POPULAR SPANISH RESPONSE TO UN AND EUROPEAN OSTRACISM PREMIER ARIAS SPOKE FOR 15 MINUTES IN CONFIDENT AND DETERMINED TONES UNDERSCORING GOVT'S DECISION TO REBUT "INTOLERABLE AGGRESSION AGAINST SPANISH SOVEREIGNTY" FROM ABROAD. NOTING THAT INK HAD HARDLY DRIED ON CSCE AGREEMENT IN HELSINKI, ARIAS SAID SOME SIGNATORIES HAD ALREADY VIOLATED COMMITMENT NOT TO INTERFERE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND NOT TO AID AND ABET TERRORIST OR SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS AIMED AT BRINGING DOWN GOVT IN ANOTHER SIGNATORY COUNTRY. ARIAS QUALIFIED FOREIGN CAMPAIGN AS EMANATING FROM WELL-KNOWN AGITATION CENTERS; HE CASTIGATED IRRESPONSIBILITY OF SOME FOREIGN GOVTS AND MEDIA WHICH SUPPORTED VILIFICATION OF SPAIN AND "BLACK LEGEND" ABOUT CRUELTY OF SPANIARDS AND THEIR LEADERS.

2. PREMIER REFERRED TO INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF TERRORISM AND REPEATED APPEALS AROUND THE WORLD FOR INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 06793 011252Z

COOPERATION TO PUT DOWN TERRORISM. ARIAS ALLUDED TO "EXPEDITIVE MEASURES" ADOPTED BY SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH TERRORISM, THE SAME COUNTRIES WHICH WERE NOW INDIGNANT ABOUT GOS TREATMENT OF TERRORISTS. AFTER SAYING THAT MEXICO WAS GUILTY OF "HORRIBLE ASSASSINATIONS" IN 1968, ARIAS DESCRIBED ENTIRE FOREIGN CAMPAIGN AS A "FARCE".

3. ARIAS RECALLED "HEROIC POSTWAR PERIOD" WHEN SPAIN WAS

UNJUSTLY OBLIGED TO ENDURE "ISOLATION", ADDING THAT SPAIN WAS NOT INTIMIDATED BY POSSIBILITY OF BEING ISOLATED AGAIN, ALTHOUGH IT PREFERRED NOT TO. HE REITERATED SPAIN'S EUROPEAN DESTINY, ADDING THAT TIS COMMITMENT WOULD NOT BE PAID FOR AT "PRICE OF NATIONAL DIGNITY". NEITHER TERRORIST ACTIONS NOR FOREIGN PRESSURES WOULD TURN SPAIN AWAY FROM ITS OWN CHOSEN PATH. HE RECOMMITTED GOVT TO PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ORDER WITH ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL.

4. AFTER PAYING TRIBUTE TO SACRIFICES OF PUBLIC ORDER FORCES, ARIAS REFERRED TO TOTAL ABSENCE ABROAD OF ANY "PATERNAL INTERCESSION OR PIOUS VOICE" MAKING AN "APPEAL OR A PRAYER" ON BEHALF OF ASSASSINATED POLICEMEN.

5. ARIAS ATTACKED ALL THOSE WHO FORCED GOS TO ADOPT A COURSE WHICH IT DID NOT WANT TO FOLLOW. "TERRORISM AND CRIME DO NOT HELP IN MOVING AHEAD WITH PROGRAM" FOR BROADER PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

6. PREMIER ALLUDED TO ABSENCE OF SUPPORT FROM SECTORS INSIDE SPAIN WHICH WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE SYSTEM AND FROM WHICH GOVT HAD RIGHT TO EXPECT ALLEGIANCE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS TENURE IN OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN "EASY OR COMFORTABLE" BUT FULL OF "GRAVE PROBLEMS".

7. ARIAS CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF GOVT AND EXAMPLE OF UNITY IN FACE OF FOREIGN AGGRESSION BOTH AS TESTIMONY OF GRATITUDE TO FRANCO AND TO GIVE WITNESS TO POPULAR ADHESION TO PRINCE JUAN CARLOS.

8. COMMENT: SPEECH WAS TIMED ON EVE OF DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY MADRID MAYOR AT PLAZA DEL ORIENTE TO PROTEST FOREIGN AGGRESSION. THROUGHOUT NIGHT CARS CIRCULATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MADRID 06793 011252Z

THROUGHOUT CITY DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS URGIN CITIZENS, MANY OF WHOM WILL HAVE HOLIDAY, TO ATTEND GOVT-SPONSORED RALLY. ARIAS' WORDS CONTAINED NATIONALISTIC RING WHICH WAS ALREADY EVIDENT IN MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION AND IN MUCH OF MEDIA. CELEBRATION OF THE "DIA DEL CAUDILLO" WILL BE MAJOR TEST OF GOVT'S ABILITY TO MOBILIZE LARGE FOLLOWING ALONG XENOPHOBIC LINES.
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